

From: [Andrea Morrow](#)
To: [Emily Lindley](#); [Ryan Vise](#)
Cc: [Gray, David](#); [Michael Honeycutt](#); [Richard Chism](#); [Susan Johnson](#); [Tracy Miller](#); [Lori Wilson](#)
Subject: Re: Proposed response to AP questions with EPA additions- please review
Date: Sunday, September 3, 2017 11:51:26 AM

David, can you give me a description of what the TAGA bus does?

This is a response to the Associated Press questions:

We have been told EPA is doing air monitoring at the Arkema plant in Crosby. Can you tell me what your monitoring has found? What chemicals in what concentrations? Where are you doing the monitoring exactly, with what instruments?

2) Your data shows multiple ozone and PM monitoring stations in Houston were knocked out during the story. Was it indeed more than half of the ozone monitors? When do you expect them to be fixed and back online?

3) Are EPA/TCEQ monitoring air quality around Houston petrochemical plants and refineries to look for potential health and safety problems? Have they deployed any mobile air monitors? (I gather these are EPA crews working in coordination with TCEQ?) If so, what have they found in the last few days near the petrochemical plants around the ship channel? If they haven't been monitoring, why not? The startup and shutdown operations typically produce heavier emissions of airborne contaminants, as we know.

2) Other than ozone and PM10 and PM2.5 are you monitoring for any other specific compounds?

3) What are the state of Texas and the EPA doing to monitor public health near the petrochemical plants and refineries given the extraordinary shutdown and startup pollution and the possibility of contaminants released into their neighborhoods? Will there be health monitoring? If so, by whom? If not, why not?

From: Emily Lindley
Sent: Sunday, September 3, 2017 11:48 AM
To: Ryan Vise
Cc: Andrea Morrow; Gray, David; Michael Honeycutt; Richard Chism; Susan Johnson; Tracy Miller; Lori Wilson
Subject: Re: Proposed response to AP questions with EPA additions- please review

I added the word Arkema at the end of the 1st paragraph. I think we need to say what the TAGA bus is and what it does. I like that we got that in there. Just need to explain to the public more.

Just so I'm straight is this part of the larger statement from this morning? Or something different?

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 3, 2017, at 11:44 AM, Ryan Vise <Ryan.Vise@Tceq.Texas.Gov> wrote:

I'm good with the language

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 3, 2017, at 11:43 AM, Andrea Morrow <Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov> wrote:

I've heard from Cory, David, and Mike. OCE are you ok with the start-up/shut-down language? Lori, Emily, Ryan, any changes?

Air Quality Monitoring: Monitors are showing that air quality at this time is not concerning and local residents should not be concerned about air quality issues related to the effects of the storm. Due to quick action and proper preparation by state authorities, all the ambient air quality monitors in the network from south of Corpus Christi to Beaumont were protected before the storm. Since then, state authorities are working to get the systems up and running again. As of Saturday, September 2, over 70 percent of the monitors are up and working again; and authorities expect that the network will be fully operational again by next week.

EPA has its surveillance aircraft conducting air monitoring for the Arkema plant fire. Also, EPA's mobile air monitoring TAGA bus will be in Houston to assist with air monitoring as well.

Emergency response monitoring at the Arkema facility evacuation perimeter is being conducted. We will make those data available as we are able. So far, nothing of immediate health concern has been detected.

The same rules apply for start-up, shut-down activities however delays may occur based upon factors related to the emergency in some situations (i.e. power outages, computer system failure, etc.).

From: Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>
Sent: Sunday, September 3, 2017 11:38 AM
To: Michael Honeycutt
Cc: Andrea Morrow; Richard Chism; Ryan Vise; Susan Johnson; Tracy Miller; Lori Wilson; Emily Lindley
Subject: Re: Proposed response to AP questions - please review

Feel free to add that EPA has its surveillance aircraft conducting air monitoring for the plant fire. Also, our mobile air monitoring TAGA bus will be in Houston to assist with air monitoring.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 3, 2017, at 11:35 AM, Michael Honeycutt
<Michael.Honeycutt@tceq.texas.gov> wrote:

Ah. Missed that.

On Sep 3, 2017, at 11:33 AM, Andrea Morrow
<Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov> wrote:

He dropped the ozone question, Mike.

From: Michael Honeycutt
Sent: Sunday, September 3, 2017 11:32 AM
To: Andrea Morrow
Cc: Richard Chism; Ryan Vise; David Gray
(gray.david@epa.gov); Susan Johnson; Tracy Miller; Lori Wilson; Emily Lindley
Subject: Re: Proposed response to AP questions - please review

On the ozone blurb, you could add that TCEQ and EPA send ozone notifications like we always do to subscribers of our notification systems. There was nothing

unusual about this notification.

On Sep 3, 2017, at 11:28 AM, Andrea Morrow <Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov> wrote:

Okay, what do you all think of this:

Air Quality

Monitoring: Monitors are showing that air quality at this time is not concerning and local residents should not be concerned about air quality issues related to the effects of the storm. Due to quick action and proper preparation by state authorities, all the ambient air quality monitors in the network from south of Corpus Christi to Beaumont were protected before the storm. Since then, state authorities are working to get the systems up and running again. As of Saturday, September 2, over 70 percent of the monitors are up and working again; and authorities expect that the network will be fully operational again by next week.

Emergency response monitoring at the Arkema facility evacuation perimeter is being conducted. We will make those data available as we are able. So far, nothing of immediate health concern has

been detected.

The same rules apply for start-up, shut-down activities however delays may occur based upon factors related to the emergency in some situations (i.e. power outages, computer system failure, etc.).

From: Michael Honeycutt
Sent: Sunday, September 3, 2017 11:23 AM
To: Richard Chism; Andrea Morrow
Cc: Ryan Vise; David Gray (gray.david@epa.gov); Susan Johnson; Tracy Miller
Subject: Re: Proposed response to AP questions - please review

You could add that we are doing emergency response monitoring at the Arkema facility evacuation perimeter and will make that data available as we have time. So far, nothing of immediate health concern has been detected.

From: Richard Chism
Sent: Sunday, September 3, 2017 11:19:57 AM
To: Andrea Morrow
Cc: Ryan Vise; David Gray (gray.david@epa.gov); Michael Honeycutt; Susan Johnson; Tracy Miller
Subject: Re: Proposed response

to AP questions - please review

This is directly from the draft joint response this morning. You can use it.

Air Quality

Monitoring: Monitors are showing that air quality at this time is not concerning and local residents should not be concerned about air quality issues related to the effects of the storm. Due to quick action and proper preparation by state authorities, all the ambient air quality monitors in the network from south of Corpus Christi to Beaumont were protected before the storm. Since then, state authorities are working to get the systems up and running again. As of Saturday, September 2, over 70 percent of the monitors are up and working again; and authorities expect that the network will be fully operational again by next week.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 3, 2017, at 11:14 AM,
Andrea Morrow
<Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov>
wrote:

Which is correct,
65% or this:

- Air Quality

Monitoring: One of the many preparations for Hurricane Harvey included EPA, TCEQ, and other monitoring entities temporarily removing approximately 75 percent of the stationary air monitoring equipment from the greater Houston, Corpus Christi, and Beaumont areas. Since then, state and local authorities are working to get the systems up and running again. As of Saturday, September 2, over 70 percent of the monitors are up and working again; and authorities expect that the network will be fully operational again by next week. Of the available air monitoring data collected from August 24-September 2, 2017, all measured

concentrations
were well below
levels of health
concern. Monitors
are showing that
air quality at this
time is not
concerning and
local residents
should not be
concerned about
air quality issues
related to the
effects of the
storm.

From: Ryan Vise

Sent: Sunday,
September 3, 2017
11:07 AM

To: Andrea Morrow

Cc: David Gray
(gray.david@epa.gov);

Richard Chism;
Michael Honeycutt;
Susan Johnson; Tracy
Miller

Subject: Re:
Proposed response
to AP questions -
please review

I'm good with these
answers.

Sent from my
iPhone

On Sep 3, 2017, at
11:06 AM, Andrea
Morrow

<Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov>

wrote:

FYI,
Cory. He
has
deleted
the third
question
because
he
understands
the
nature of
the
AirNow
report.

I don't
have
sufficient
information
to
answer
these
questions.
I suggest
we say,
the
TCEQ
has
reactivated
65
percent
of our
monitoring
network
in the
hurricane-
affected
areas.

(Insert
EPA
monitoring
data
here or
explain
why it is
not
available)

The

same
rules
apply for
start-up,
shut-
down
activities
however
delays
may
occur
based
upon
factors
related
to the
emergency
in some
situations
(i.e.
power
outages,
computer
system
failure,
etc.).

Hourly
data
from the
operating
ozone
monitors
in
TCEQ's
network
are used
by the
EPA to
predict
air
quality.
What
you are
looking
at is a
forecast
based on
one-
hour

(snapshot)
readings.
The 201
ppb you
referenced
is not an
actual
monitored
reading,
it is a
projection.
TCEQ is
aware of
elevated
ozone
levels
west of
Houston
which is
not
unusual
for this
time of
year.

1)

You are doing
air
monitoring
at the
Arkema
plant in
Crosby.
Can you
tell me
what
your
monitoring
has
found?
What
chemicals
in what
concentrations?
Where
are you
doing
the
monitoring
exactly?

2) Are
EPA/TCEQ
monitoring
air
quality
around
petrochemical
plants
and
refineries
looking
for
potential
problems?
Have
they
deployed
any
mobile
air
monitors?
(I gather
these
are EPA
crews
working
in
coordination
with
TCEQ?)
If so,
what
have
they
found in
the last
few days
near the
petrochemical
plants
around
the ship
channel?
If they
haven't
been
monitoring,
why
not? The
startup

and
shutdown
operations
typically
produce
heavier
emissions
of
airborne
contaminants,
right?

3) I saw
an ozone
level of
201 ppb
recorded
in
Houston
on
Friday
on
airnow.gov
and
Andrea
Morrow
of TCEQ
told my
colleague
Jason
Dearen
that the
reading
was
recorded
as a
single
hourly
max at
one
monitoring
station.
Your
ozone
level for
the day
(95 ppb)
is based
on an
eight-

hour of
average,
she said.
But that
does not
deny
that a
single
station
had that
maximum
level,
correct?
What
station
was it?
Can you
tell me
what
hour of
the day?
Did any
other
stations
Very
Unhealthy
ozone
levels on
Friday or
Saturday?

Hourly data
from the
operating
ozone
monitors
in
TCEQ's
network
are used
by the
EPA to
predict
air
quality.
What
you are
looking
at is a
forecast

based on
one-
hour
(snapshot)
readings.
The 201
ppb you
referenced
is not an
actual
monitored
reading,
it is a
projection.
TCEQ is
aware of
elevated
ozone
levels
west of
Houston
which is
not
unusual
for this
time of
year.

4) What
are the
state of
Texas
and the
EPA
doing to
monitor
public
health
near the
petrochemical
plants
and
refineries
given
the
extraordinary
shutdown
and
startup
pollution

and the
possibility
of
contaminants
released
into
their
neighborhoods?
Will
there be
health
monitoring?
If so, by
whom?
If not,
why
not?